

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MIKI MEETING WITH FEA ADMINISTRATOR WILLIAM SIMON

1. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER MIKI MEET WITH ADMINISTRATOR SIMON AT SHOREHAM HOTEL ON JANUARY 9. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF HIGHLIGHTS OF DISCUSSION.

2. MIKI WELCOMED SIMON AND OPENED MEETING BY DESCRIBING HIS LONG STANDING INTEREST IN MIDDLE EAST AND JAPAN'S DEPENDENCE ON OIL IMPORTS. SIMON RESPONDED THAT OUR CONCERN WAS EQUALLY GREAT EVEN THOUGH WE ARE 85 PERCENT SELF SUFFICIENT IN OIL. SIMON REFERRED TO THE MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT PROPOSING A MEETING OF AN ENERGY ACTION GROUP ON OR ABOUT FEB 11 AS PROOF OF OUR CONCERN. HE SAID THAT THE ARAB OIL EMBARGO HAD FORCED US TO CONCENTRATE ON A PROBLEM WHICH EXISTED ANYWAY. IN THE OECD AND ELSEWHERE WE HAD URGED MULTILATERAL COOPERATION, SINCE NO COUNTRY COULD SOLVE THE PROBLEM BILATERALLY. WE ALSO WANT COOPERATION WITH PRODUCING COUNTRIES, NOT CONFRONTATION WITH THEM.

3. MIKI AGREED COOPERATION IS INDISPENSABLE, BUT DID NOT COMMENT ON THE STRUCTURE FOR ACHIEVING IT.

4. SIMON GAVE MIKI A BROAD DESCRIPTION OF AVAILABLE ENERGY RESOURCES IN THE US AND POSSIBLE MEANS BY WHICH WE SAID THAT NUCLEAR POWER WAS JAPAN'S BEST PROSPECT FOR A NEW SOURCE OF ENERGY BUT THAT EXPANSION IS DIFFICULT SINCE JAPAN HAS NO URANIUM ORE, NO ENRICHMENT PLANTS, AND A LACK OF SUITABLE SITES.

5. SIMON WENT ON TO DESCRIBE IMMEDIATE AND LONGER-TERM MEASURES WE ARE CONSIDERING TO CONSERVE ENERGY. HE ASKED WHAT CONSERVATION MEASURES JAPAN HAD IN MIND AND WHAT THE PRICE OF GASOLINE WOULD BE IN THE FUTURE. MIKI MENTIONED STEPS ALREADY TAKEN TO REDUCE ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES TO INDUSTRY, LIMIT GAS STATION HOURS AND SHUT OFF UNNECESSARY LIGHTING. HE AFFIRMED A CURRENT PRICE FOR GASOLINE IN JAPAN OF ABOUT \$1.10 PER GALLON, BUT HAD NO ESTIMATE OF HOW MUCH HIGHER IT WOULD GO.

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6. MIKI REFERRED TO HIS TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST, SAYING THAT HE HAD SEEN LITTLE THERE EXCEPT DESERT AND OIL. THE ARABS, HE SAID, DO NOT WANT JUST TO ACCUMULATE DOLLARS, BUT WANT TO INDUSTRIALIZE. HE HAD PROMISED THAT JAPAN WOULD HELP THEM DEVELOP. SIMON AGREED THAT CONSUMER COUNTRIES HAD MUCH TO OFFER PRODUCERS, AND THAT SAUDI PETROLEUM MINISTER YAMANI AND OTHER ARAB REPRESENTATIVES HAD TOLD HIM OF THEIR DESIRE TO DEVELOP INDUSTRY.

7. SIMON AGAIN EMPHASIZED THE NECESSITY FOR MULTILATERAL COOPERATION WITHOUT CONFRONTATION, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF NOT TRYING TO ARRANGE PURELY BILATERAL SOLUTIONS. MIKI ASKED IF WE HAD TAKEN ANY SOUNDINGS AMONG THE ARABS ON THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL, TO WHICH SIMON REPLIED THAT IT WAS TOO SOON TO HAVE A FORMAL RESPONSE.

8. MIKI ASKED IF JAPANESE INTERESTS MIGHT INVEST IN SHALE OIL DEVELOPMENT IN THE US. SIMON RESPONDED THAT HE COULD SEE NO OBJECTION AND A DEFINITE PROPOSAL TO INITIATE DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE WELCOME.

9. AFTER A DISCUSSION OF WHAT MIKI WOULD SAY IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE LATER IN THE DAY THE MEETING CLOSED. KISSINGER

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